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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO

and
FEDERAL-STATE-PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

AS OF
APRIL 1, 1980



U.S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE * SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION
STATE ENGINEER of COLORADO
and STATE ENGINEER of NEW MEXICO

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IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY

Knowing what the summer's water supply will be has real economic value to farmers. Usually the irrigator uses the water supply forecast information with other facts in making decisions about how he will manage his annual water supply.

Throughout the irrigation season farmers must continually decide which crops to irrigate and which to leave dry if available water will not meet all their needs. Knowledge of water requirements of irrigated crops and effects of insufficient water on crops is of utmost importance to farmers in attaining the optimum use of water, land, capital investment, labor and other resources.

If the supply of water is above normal, as it appears this season, farmers may plant more acres of crops than they would under normal or below normal conditions or plant additional acres of crops that require more water, such as alfalfa. The farmer will of course consider soil capability, farming methods, irrigation practices and cropping patterns in adapting to his expected water supply.

Knowing how much water can be expected is an essential part of planning. As an additional tool computer programs will soon be available that will help farmers plan their farm operations around water supply forecasts. This will give the farmers a higher probability of success in maximizing their economic returns.

Information on how to use water supply forecasts can be obtained at your local SCS field office.

"The Conservation of Water begins with the Snow Survey"

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WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS as of

APRIL 1, 1980

PRECIPITATION DURING MARCH WAS ABOVE NORMAL IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO BRINGING MOUNTAIN SNOWPACKS TO LEVELS WHICH EXCEED MAXIMUM OF RECORD IN SOME LOCATIONS. MOST OF THE GAINS IN SNOWPACK OCCURRED DURING STORM EVENTS THE FIRST AND LAST WEEKS OF MARCH. A SERIES OF FRONTS PUSHING INTO COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO FROM THE SOUTHWEST NEAR THE END OF MARCH AND THE FIRST SEVERAL DAYS OF APRIL ADDED MORE SNOW. ONE TO THREE ADDITIONAL INCHES OF PRECIPITATION IN THE MOUNTAINS WERE RECORDED BY THE SNOTEL SYSTEM AFTER MOST OF THE MANUAL SNOW SURVEYS WERE COMPLETED. STREAMFLOW FORECASTS ARE A JOINT EFFORT OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE.



COLORADO -- THE OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING SPRING AND SUMMER'S WATER SUPPLY IN ALL MAJOR DRAINAGES IS EXCELLENT. FORECASTS OF STREAMFLOW RANGE FROM 17% ABOVE NORMAL ON CLEAR CREEK IN THE SOUTH PLATTE BASIN TO OVER 200% OF AVERAGE IN THE SAN JUAN BASIN. IN A PATTERN SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR, THE HIGHEST STREAMFLOWS ARE EXPECTED IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO WITH AMOUNTS DECREASING MOVING NORTHWARD. A GOOD HIGH ELEVATION SNOWPACK SHOULD SUSTAIN STREAMFLOWS LATER THAN NORMAL INTO THE SUMMER SEASON.



NEW MEXICO -- HEAVY PRECIPITATION IN THE MOUNTAINS DURING MARCH HAS INCREASED THE SNOWPACK TO RECORD LEVELS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO. THE RIO CHAMA DRAINAGE HAS A SNOWPACK WHICH IS 231% OF NORMAL. MAXIMUM OF RECORD SNOW COURSE READINGS WERE MEASURED AT CUMBRES PASS, CHAMA DIVIDE, AND CHAMITA IN THIS DRAINAGE. STREAMFLOW FORECASTS RANGE BETWEEN 40 AND 228% ABOVE NORMAL ON THE RIO GRANDE AND MAJOR TRIBUTARIES. RESERVOIR STORAGE IS 173% OF AVERAGE. THE POTENTIAL NOW EXISTS FOR LOCALIZED OVER-BANK FLOW IN LOW LYING AREAS WHEN MELT BEGINS.



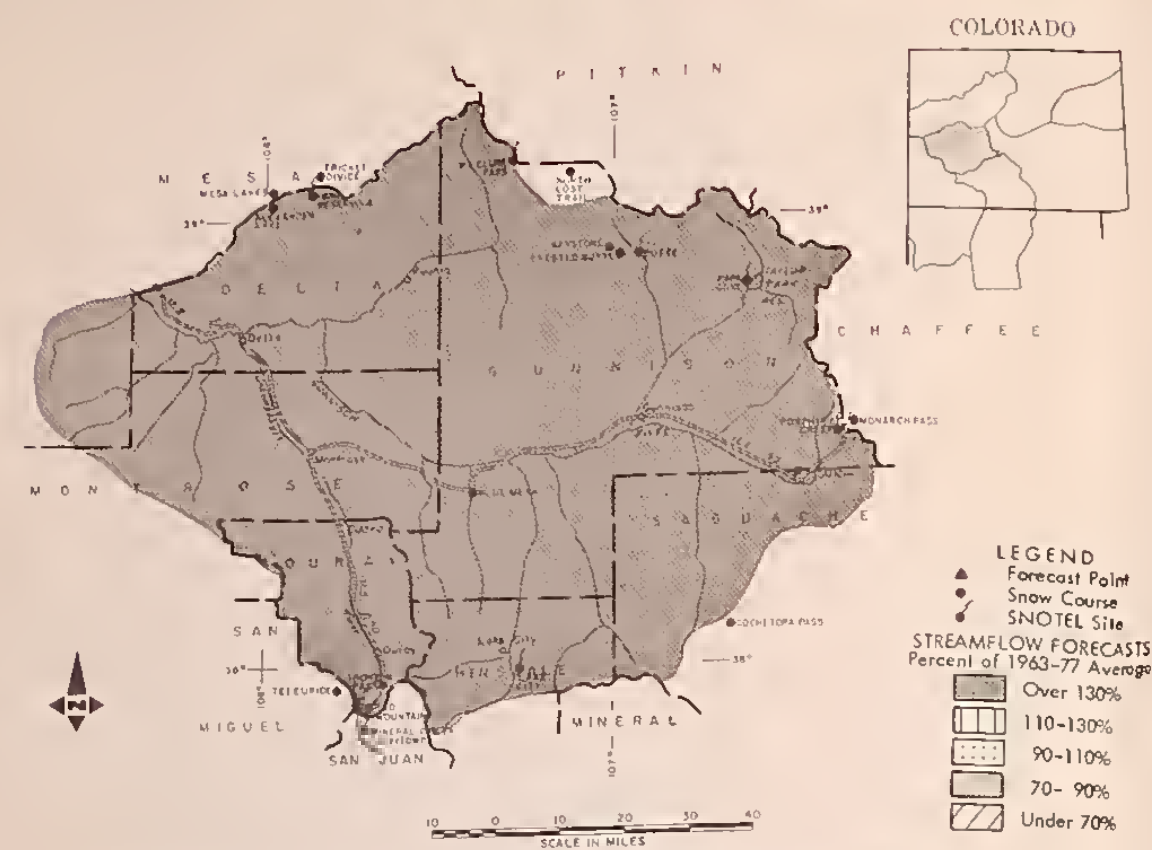
LEGEND
Forecast Point
Watershed
Boundaries

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS
Percent of 1963-77 Average

- Over 130%
- 110-130%
- 90-110%
- 70-90%
- Under 70%

The map on this page indicates the most probable water supply as of the date of this report. Estimates assume average conditions of snow fall, precipitation and other factors from this date to the end of the forecast period. As the season progresses accuracy of estimates improve. In addition to expected streamflow, reservoir storage, soil moisture in irrigated areas, and other factors are considered in estimating water supply. Estimates apply to irrigated areas along the main streams and may not indicate conditions on small tributaries.

GUNNISON RIVER WATERSHED IN COLORADO



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

SNOW SURVEYS NEAR THE END OF MARCH SHOWED A 9% INCREASE IN BASIN SNOWPACK OVER LAST MONTH. SNOWPACK IN THE BASIN IS NOW 153% OF AVERAGE AND 5% MORE THAN A YEAR AGO AT THE SAME TIME. SNOWPACK IS PARTICULARLY HEAVY ON THE GRAND MESA WITH SNOW DEPTHS OVER 100 INCHES. WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE COMING SEASON ARE ANTICIPATED TO BE BETWEEN 30 AND 65% ABOVE AVERAGE. STORAGE IN MAJOR RESERVOIRS IS 10% ABOVE NORMAL AND 11% HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO. SOIL MOISTURE IN IRRIGATED AREAS IS RATED AS GOOD TO EXCELLENT.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 AC. FT.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Gunnison River inflow to Blue Mesa Reservoir (1)	1170	155	754.0
Gunnison River near Grand Junction (2)	1750	155	1150.0
North Fork of Gunnison (3)	400	153	264.0
Surface Creek near Cedaredge	23	151	15.2
Uncompahgre River at Colona	170	132	129.0

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK Expressed as "Good Fair Average Excellent" with Respect to Usual Supply

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Ohio Creek	Exc.	Exc.
State River	Exc.	Exc.
Taylor River	Exc.	Exc.
Tomichi Creek	Exc.	Avg.

RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Ac. Ft.) END OF MONTH

Basin or Stream and Reservoir	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
		This Year	1963-77	1963-77
Blue Mesa	830	360	315	328
Morrow Point	121	115	115	104
Taylor	106	65	56	63

LIST OF COOPERATORS

The following organizations cooperate in snow surveys for the Colorado, Platte, Arkansas and Rio Grande watersheds. Many other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

- STATE**
- Colorado State Engineer
 - Colorado State Soil Conservation Board
 - New Mexico State Engineer
 - Colorado State University Experiment Station
 - Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
 - New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
 - University of Colorado, INSTAAR
- FEDERAL**
- Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service
 - Soil Conservation Service
 - Department of Interior
 - Bureau of Reclamation
 - Geological Survey
 - National Park Service
 - Department of Commerce
 - NOAA, National Weather Service
 - Defense Department
 - Army Engineer Corps
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - Goddard Space Flight Center
- INVESTOR OWNED UTILITIES**
- Colorado Public Service Company
 - Public Service Company of New Mexico
- MUNICIPALITIES**
- City of Denver
 - City of Boulder
 - City of Greeley
 - City of Fort Collins

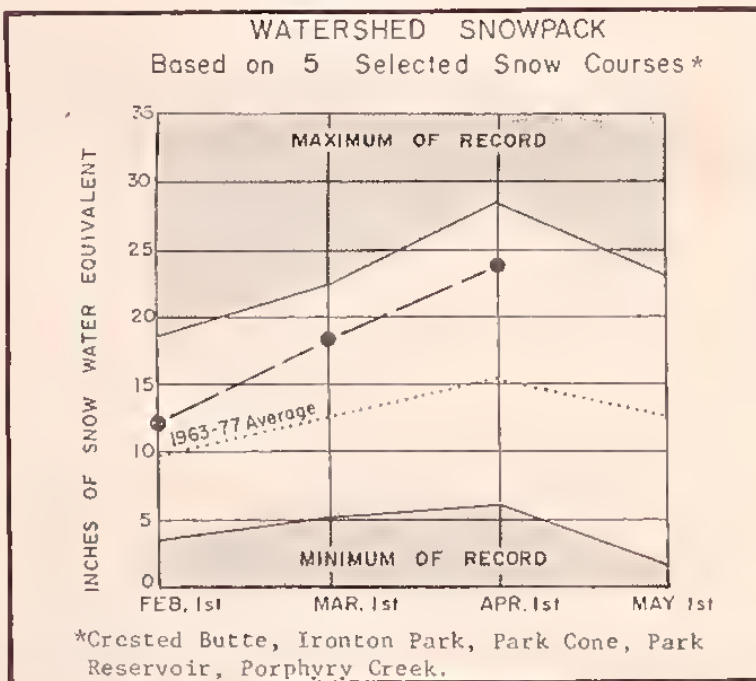
SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN SUB-WATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOWPACK AS PERCENT OF	
		Last Year	1963-77 Average
Gunnison	13	106	156
Surface Creek	3	112	160
Uncompahgre	3	91	132

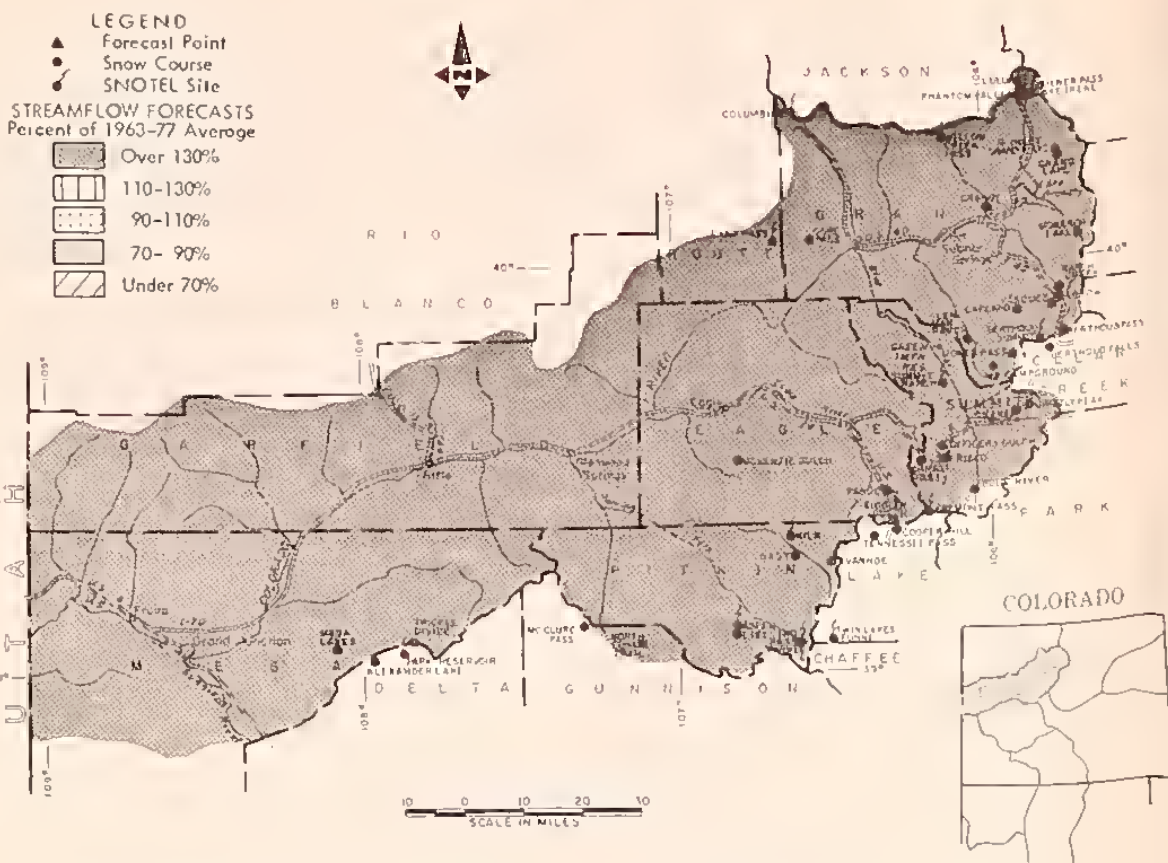
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE	DATE OF SURVEY	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD	
		SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG. 1963-77
GUNNISON BASIN					
<u>Gunnison River</u>					
Alexander Lake	3/28	95	33.9	30.0	21.4
Blue Mesa	3/28	38	10.8	11.0	7.1
Butte	3/27	71	24.6	22.6	15.1
Cochetopa Pass (B)	3/26	28	6.4	9.6	5.9
Crested Butte	3/27	70	25.3	21.7	13.2
Keystone	3/27	94	35.7	30.9	19.4
Lake City	3/25	37	9.6	10.7	7.2
Mesa Lakes (B)	3/28	76	24.4	22.2	16.5
McClure Pass	3/27	67	23.2	21.8	15.4
Park Cone	3/28	52	16.5	15.2	10.1
Park Reservoir	3/27	112	38.6	34.1	22.5
Porphyry Creek	3/31	68	21.1	22.4	16.2
Slungullion	3/25	58	16.1	19.0	---
Tomichi	3/31	50	15.0	16.6	12.7
<u>Surface Creek</u>					
Alexander Lake	3/28	95	33.9	30.1	21.4
Mesa Lakes	3/28	76	24.4	22.2	16.5
Park Reservoir	3/27	112	38.6	34.1	22.5
<u>Uncompahgre River</u>					
Idarado	3/27	60	19.0	---	---
Ironton Park	3/27	54	17.0	15.7	13.3
Red Mountain Pass	3/28	108	37.5	44.0	29.7
Telluride (B)	3/25	44	11.4	13.0	7.1

SS-No survey.
(B)-On adjacent drainage.



*Crested Butte, Ironton Park, Park Cone, Park Reservoir, Porphyry Creek.



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS IN THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED HAVE INCREASED 5% FROM LAST MONTH DUE TO THE EXCELLENT SNOWPACK. SNOWPACKS NOW RANGE FROM A LOW OF 131% OF NORMAL ON THE ROARING FORK TO 162% OF NORMAL ON PLATEAU CREEK. PRECIPITATION HAS GENERALLY BEEN WELL ABOVE NORMAL DURING MARCH WITH THE STORM DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SNOWPACK. RESERVOIR STORAGE IS 14% ABOVE AVERAGE IN DILLON AND 11% ABOVE AVERAGE IN GRANBY. WATER SUPPLIES SHOULD BE EXCELLENT IN ALL OF THE UPPER COLORADO DRAINAGE WITH FORECASTS RANGING BETWEEN 35 AND 61% ABOVE NORMAL.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 AC. FT.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Blue River inflow to Dillon Reservoir	225	135	167.0
Blue River inflow to Green Mountain Reservoir (1)	390	136	287.0
Colorado River near Cameo (2)	3400	146	2336.0
Colorado River near Dotsero (3)	1980	139	1422.0
Colorado River inflow to Granby Reservoir (4)	300	138	218.0
Eagle River below Gypsum	430	144	697.0
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs (5)	940	135	59.0
Williams Fork near Parshall (6)	95	161	48.0
Willow Creek inflow to Willow Creek Reservoir	65	135	298.0

RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Ac. Ft.) END OF MONTH

Basin or Stream and Reservoir	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
		This Year	1963-77	1963-77
Dillon	251	226	159	199
Granby	466	245	93	220
Green Mountain	139	58	55	56
Homestake	43	17	20	16
Ruedi	101	55	59	59
Vega	32	12	11	12
Williams Fork	97	44	43	33
Willow Creek	9	7	7	7

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK Expressed as "Good Fair Average Excellent" with Respect to Usual Supply

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Brush	Exc.	Avg.
Gypsum Creek	Exc.	Avg.



COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED IN COLORADO

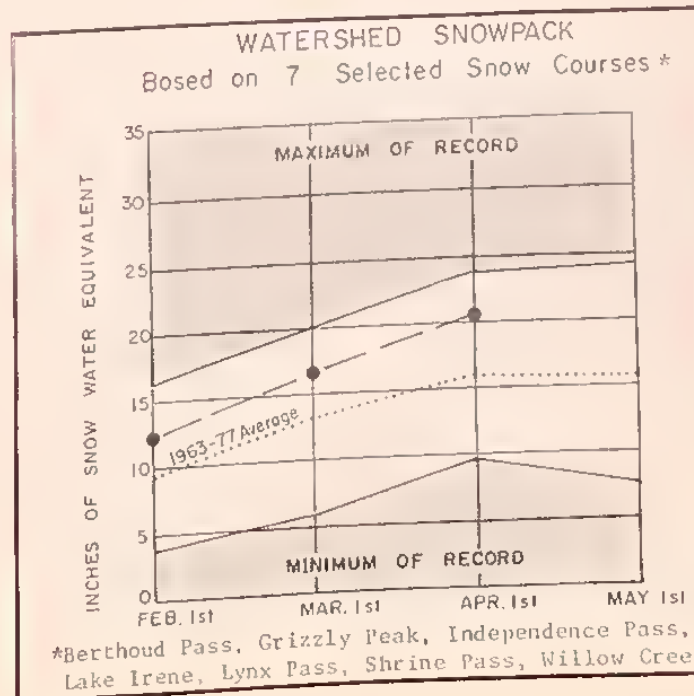
SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN SUB-WATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOWPACK AS PERCENT OF	
		Last Year	1963-77 Average
Blue River	8	118	137
Colorado	20	111	142
Plateau	3	110	162
Roaring Fork	8	102	131
Williams Fork	3	120	134
Willow	2	88	131

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

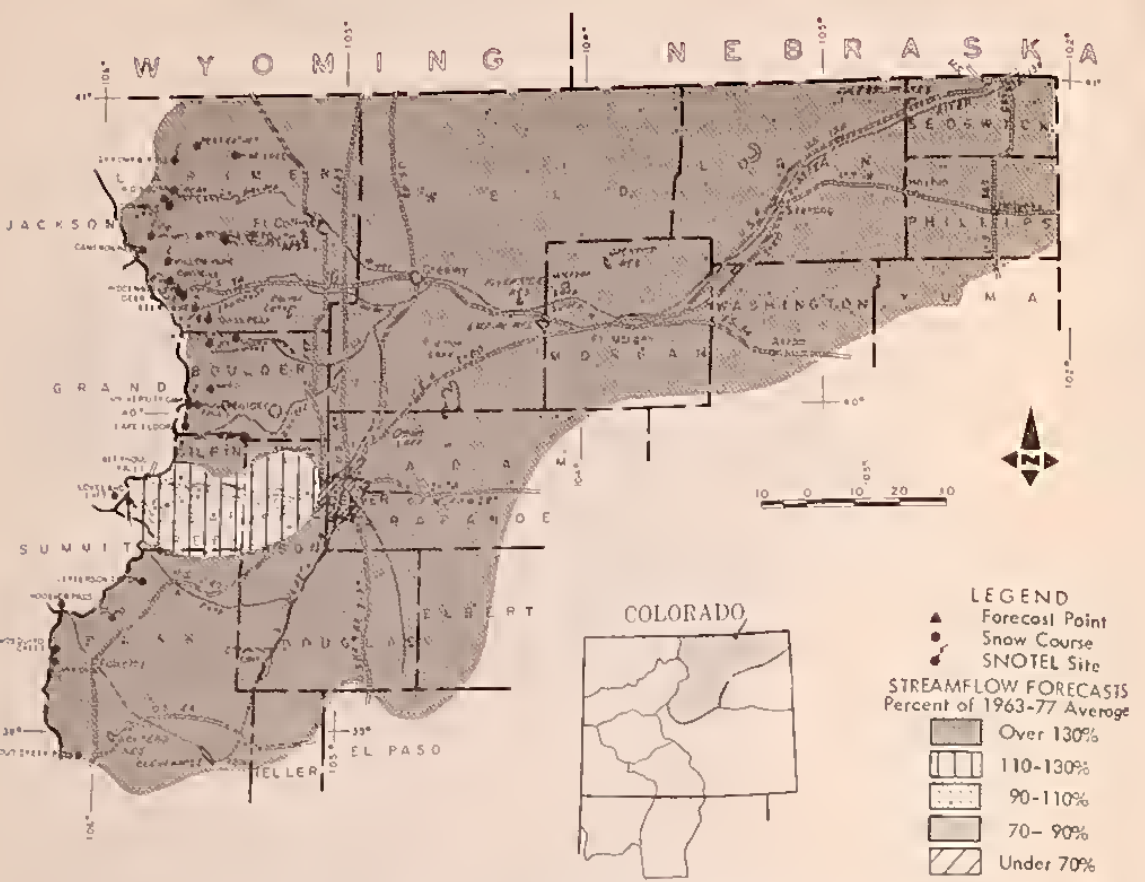
SNOW COURSE	DATE OF SURVEY	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD	
		SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG. 1963-77
COLORADO BASIN					
<u>Blue River</u>					
Blue River	3/26	40	12.3	10.2	8.0
Fremont Pass	3/28	66	21.4	16.6	15.5
Grizzly Peak	3/27	62	20.4	19.0	17.8
Hoosier Pass	3/26	53	17.8	15.3	12.0
Officers Gulch	3/27	33	9.9	8.3	5.7
Shrine Pass	3/25	63	21.3	17.6	17.6
Snake River	3/27	36	10.9	9.7	7.6
Summit Ranch	3/26	38	11.6	9.4	7.2
Ute Pass	3/31	54	17.5	11.8	---
<u>Colorado River</u>					
Arrow	3/27	55	19.0	17.7	13.4
Berthoud Pass	3/26	69	22.2	18.5	15.5
Berthoud Summit	3/27	67	22.8	21.4	18.1
Cooper Hill	3/28	53	14.9	12.8	10.8
Copper Mountain	3/28	57	16.2	16.2	---
Glenmar Ranch	3/26	38	11.2	10.0	8.6
Gore Pass	3/26	44	13.3	14.0	10.1
Grand Lake	3/27	47	14.4	13.0	8.3
Lake Irene	3/24	77	29.3	24.4	19.7
Lapland	3/27	44	14.4	10.0	9.9
Lulu	3/26	82	28.5	26.1	18.4
Lynx Pass	3/26	49	14.1	14.2	12.6
McKenzie Gulch	3/25	31	8.2	9.6	5.6
Middle Fork	3/26	45	13.6	10.1	9.7
Wilder	3/24	54	18.5	16.4	12.6
North Inlet	3/28	44	13.6	13.0	8.3
Pando	3/25	37	10.7	9.1	9.7
Phantom Valley	3/27	53	18.2	15.3	10.0
Ranch Creek	3/27	44	13.4	13.6	9.6
Tennessee Pass (B)	3/30	47	13.3	14.0	10.0
Vail Mountain	3/28	81	28.5	26.2	---
Vasquez	3/28	64	19.1	14.7	12.6
<u>Plateau Creek</u>					
Mesa Lakes	3/28	76	24.4	22.2	16.5
Park Reservoir	3/27	112	38.6	34.1	22.5
Trickle Divide	3/27	113	39.8	37.3	24.3
<u>Roaring Fork</u>					
Aspen	3/26	62	18.4	17.4	17.3
Independence Pass	3/26	67	20.5	23.5	15.9
Ivanhoe	3/26	67	22.4	21.2	18.4
Kiln	3/26	47	13.8	14.4	12.7
Lift	3/26	69	23.0	21.7	17.4
McClure Pass	3/27	67	23.2	21.8	15.4
Nast	3/26	33	9.4	9.2	6.1
North Lost Trail	3/27	64	22.7	21.5	14.4
<u>Williams Fork River</u>					
Glenmar Ranch	3/26	38	11.2	10.0	8.6
Jones Pass	3/26	57	20.1	17.2	15.1
Middle Fork	3/26	45	13.6	10.1	9.7
<u>Willow Creek</u>					
Granby	3/27	34	9.6	11.2	7.3
Willow Creek Pass	3/27	52	16.0	17.9	12.2

SS-No survey.
(B)-On adjacent drainage.



*Berthoud Pass, Grizzly Peak, Independence Pass, Lake Irene, Lynx Pass, Shrine Pass, Willow Creek.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER WATERSHED IN COLORADO



YOUR WATER SUPPLY
 SNOWPACK CONDITIONS ALONG THE FRONT RANGE REMAIN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS LAST MONTH WITH ALL DRAINAGES ABOVE OR VERY CLOSE TO 130% OF NORMAL. PRECIPITATION AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN WELL ABOVE NORMAL ALONG THE FRONT RANGE AREA. THE GREATEST ACCUMULATIONS HAVE BEEN AT LOW ELEVATIONS AS DEMONSTRATED BY FORT COLLINS PRECIPITATION FOR THE MONTH AT 256% OF NORMAL AND AN INCREASE OF 1.5 INCHES OF WATER AT COPELAND LAKE SNOW COURSE OR 750% OF ITS AVERAGE ACCUMULATION. RESERVOIR STORAGE IS GOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES ARE FORECAST FROM 17% TO 44% ABOVE NORMAL FOR THE GROWING SEASON.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Bear Creek at Morrison	32	115	24.8
Big Thompson River at Drake (1)	130	127	102.6
Boulder Creek at Orodell	58	129	45.1
Cache La Poudre River at Canyon Mouth (2)	350	144	243.0
Clear Creek at Golden (3)	140	117	120.0
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons	95	133	71.6
South Platte River at South Platte	250	130	193.0

(1) Observed flow plus forecast to prior events. (2) Observed flow minus basin diversion plus municipal and irrigation diversions. (3) Observed flow minus diversion through Figure P, Control Tunnel.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" with Respect to Water Supply

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Coal Creek	Exc.	Avg.
North Fork of South Platte	Exc.	Avg.
North Fork of Cache La Poudre	Exc.	Avg.
Ralston Creek	Exc.	Avg.
Rock Creek	Exc.	Avg.
South Platte from Greeley to Fort Morgan	Exc.	Avg.
South Platte from Fort Morgan to Sterling	Exc.	Avg.
South Platte below Sterling	Exc.	Avg.

RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Ac. Ft.) END OF MONTH

Name of Reservoir and/or Reservoir	Usable Storage		
	This Year	Last Year	1963-77 Average
Antero	16	16	14
Barr Lake	32	26	25
Black Hollow	8	5	4
Boyd Lake	44	42	37
Cache La Poudre	10	10	9
Carter Lake	109	106	99
Chambers Lake	9	6	3
Cheesman	79	71	37
Cobb Lake	34	20	4
Eleven Mile	98	98	87
Empire	38	33	22
Fossil Creek	12	6	7
Gross	43	21	19
Halligan	6	6	5
Horsetooth	144	127	105
Jackson	35	32	33
Julesburg	28	23	23
Lake Loveland	14	12	10
Lone Tree	9	8	3
Mariano	5	5	5
Marshall	10	8	4
Marston	17	16	15
Milton	24	17	15
Point of Rocks	70	70	66
Prewitt	33	27	23
Riverside	58	40	55
Standley	42	41	31
Terry	8	5	6
Union	13	13	10
Windsor	19	14	12



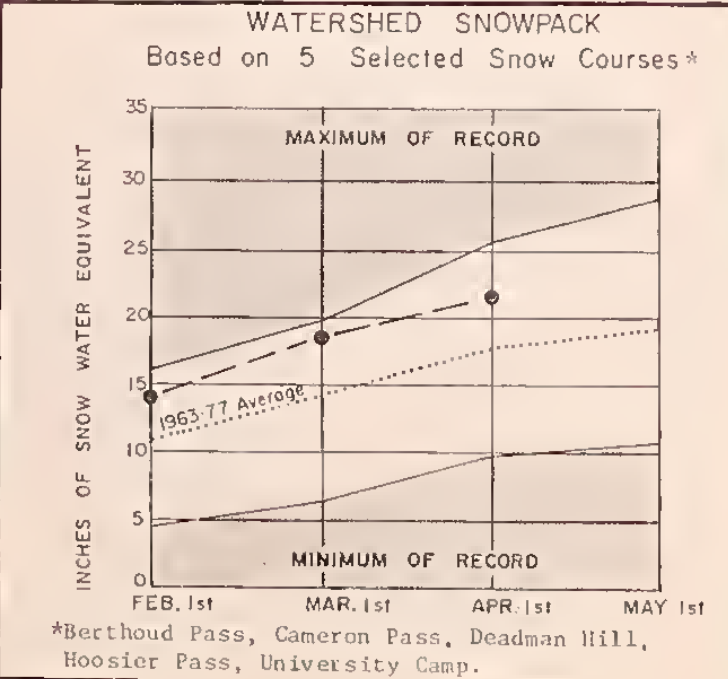
SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN and/or SUB-WATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOW MEASUREMENTS	
		Last Year	1963-77 Average
Big Thompson	5	101	140
Boulder	3	108	128
Cache La Poudre	9	103	132
Clear Creek	5	112	128
Saint Vrain	3	113	187
South Platte	7	99	142

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

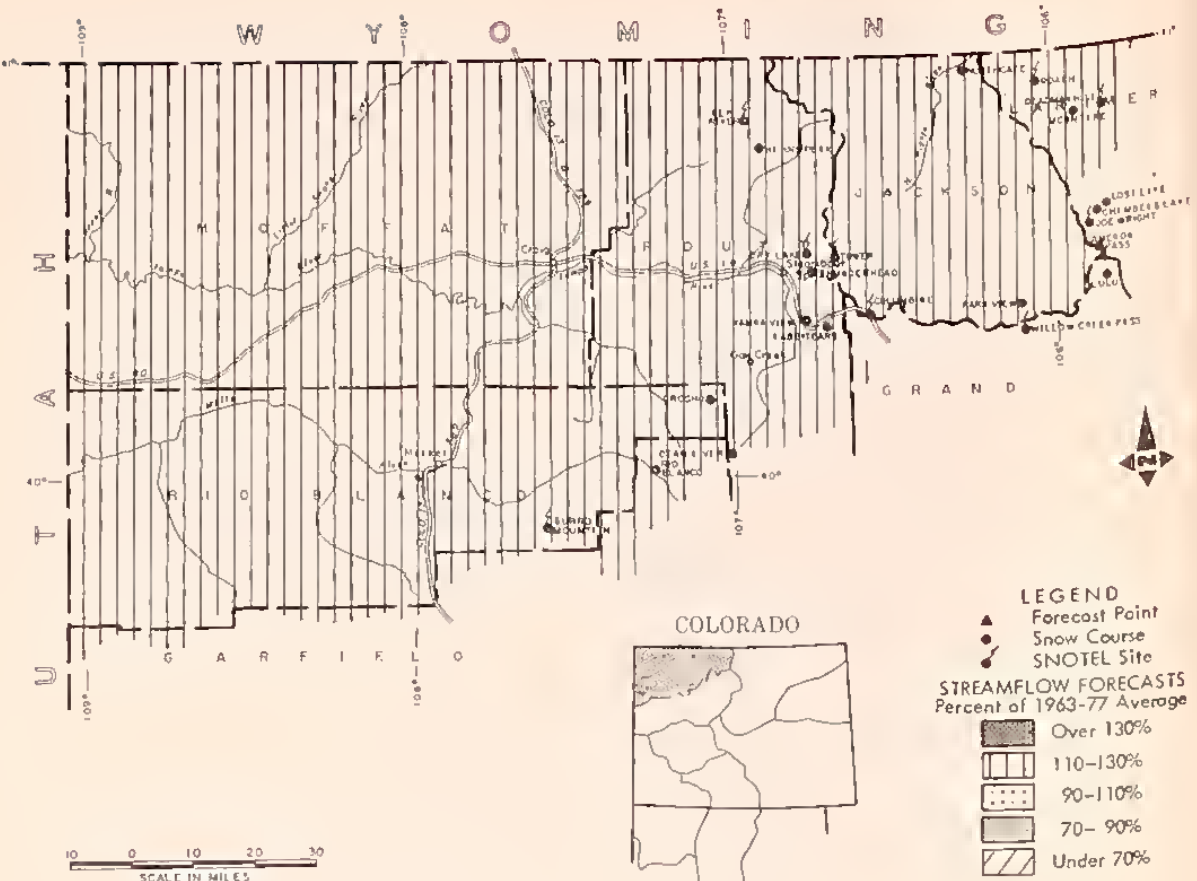
SNOW COURSE	DATE OF SURVEY	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD	
		SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG. 1963-77
SOUTH PLATTE BASIN					
<u>Boulder Creek</u>					
Baltimore	3/27	31	8.6	9.4	6.6
Boulder Falls	3/26	50	15.7	14.2	12.8
Lake Eldora	3/26	46	15.5	12.5	---
University Camp	3/26	62	22.2	19.3	17.0
<u>Big Thompson River</u>					
Bear Lake	3/29	66	20.9	21.2	---
Deer Ridge	3/31	35	8.1	7.6	4.3
Hidden Valley	3/31	51	13.7	13.7	9.3
Lake Irene (B)	3/24	77	29.3	24.4	19.7
Long's Peak	3/29	41	11.6	16.0	10.4
Two Mile	3/31	60	18.5	17.6	13.7
Willow Park	3/29	80	27.5	24.2	---
<u>Cache La Poudre</u>					
Bennett Creek	3/31	48	11.8	11.3	6.6
Big South	3/28	20	5.2	4.6	1.3
Cameron Pass	3/28	84	28.5	30.4	28.2
Chambers Lake	3/28	42	13.4	13.2	9.0
Deadman Hill	3/27	59	19.3	19.3	15.5
Hourglass Lake	3/31	43	10.8	9.7	6.7
Joe Wright	3/28	86	27.7	25.6	24.4
Lost Lake	3/28	50	15.3	14.6	11.1
Red Feather	3/27	38	12.5	11.3	6.6
<u>Clear Creek</u>					
Baltimore (B)	3/27	31	8.6	9.4	6.6
Berthoud Falls	3/27	53	18.4	13.4	13.2
Empire	3/27	36	9.6	10.2	7.5
Grizzly Peak (B)	3/27	62	20.4	19.0	17.8
Loveland Pass	3/27	57	20.0	16.7	15.2
<u>St. Vrain River</u>					
Copeland Lake	3/27	29	10.1	7.2	4.0
Ward	3/26	32	9.4	8.8	5.7
Wild Basin	3/27	52	17.2	16.4	9.9
<u>South Platte River</u>					
Bison Reservoir	3/31	29	7.6	6.8	---
Como	3/27	29	7.9	8.2	6.7
Geneva Park	3/28	22	5.1	5.9	3.7
Horseshoe Mountain	3/26	49	14.3	12.7	10.1
Hoosier Pass	3/26	53	17.6	15.3	12.0
Jefferson Creek	3/27	37	11.2	12.7	8.5
Mosquito	3/26	43	13.7	13.4	8.6
Niwot	3/23	53	18.9	---	---
Trout Creek Pass	3/27	28	6.7	9.3	4.2

(a) No survey. (b) On adjacent drainage.



*Berthoud Pass, Cameron Pass, Deadman Hill, Hoosier Pass, University Camp.

YAMPA, WHITE AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER WATERSHEDS IN COLORADO



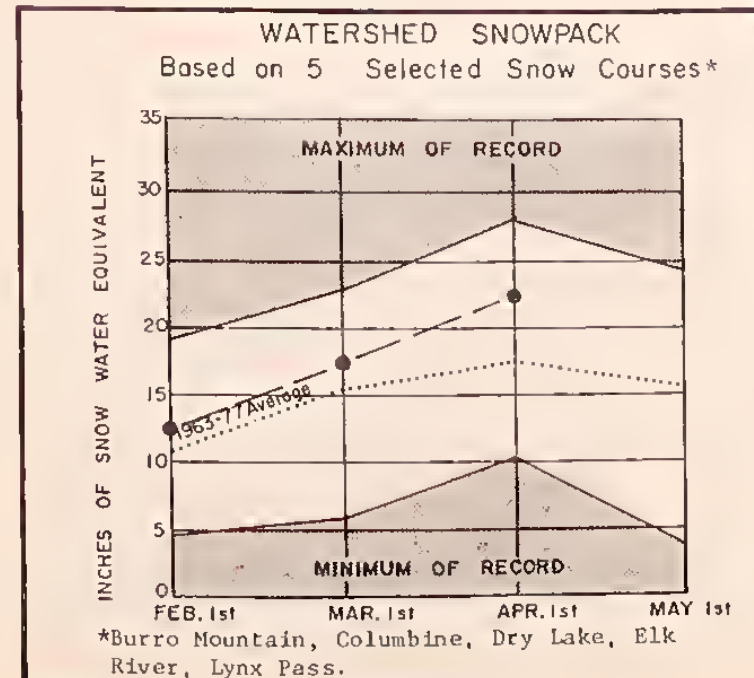
YOUR WATER SUPPLY
 SNOW SURVEYS COMPLETED APRIL FIRST INDICATE THE AREA IS GENERALLY ABOVE AVERAGE RANGING FROM 116% OF NORMAL ON THE NORTH PLATTE TO 139% OF NORMAL ON ELK RIVER. WATERSHEDS IN THE AREA SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES FROM LAST MONTH WITH THE YAMPA AND WHITE RIVERS INCREASING FROM 115 AND 116% OF NORMAL, RESPECTIVELY, TO 126 AND 125% OF NORMAL. COLUMBINE SNOW COURSE INCREASED FROM 21.7" LAST MONTH TO 26.4"

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Elk River at Clark	225	129	198.0
Laramie River near Woods	155	124	125.0
Little Snake River at Lily	460	132	349.0
North Platte River at Northgate	300	126	238.0
White River near Meeker	340	118	287.0
Yampa River near Maybell	1100	122	905.0
Yampa River at Steamboat Springs	325	119	273.0

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" with Respect to Water Supply

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Canadian River	Exc.	Avg.
Hunt Creek	Exc.	Avg.
Illinois River	Exc.	Avg.
Michigan River	Exc.	Avg.
Oak Creek	Exc.	Avg.
Trout Creek	Exc.	Avg.



*Burro Mountain, Columbine, Dry Lake, Elk River, Lynx Pass.

SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN and/or SUB-WATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOW MEASUREMENTS	
		Last Year	1963-77 Average
Elk	2	99	139
Laramie	3	97	129
North Platte	5	95	116
White	2	76	125
Yampa	8	103	126

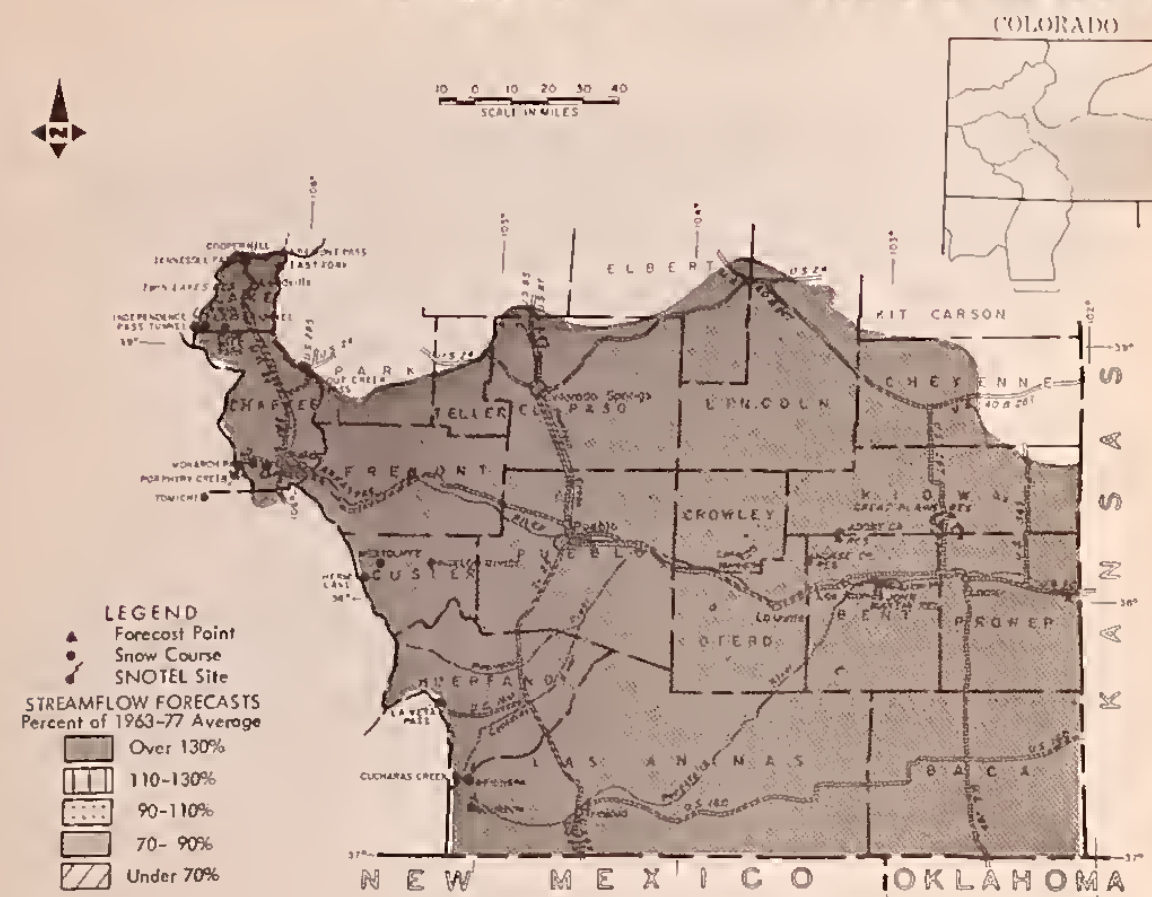
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE	DATE OF SURVEY	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD	
		SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG. 1963-77
NORTH PLATTE BASIN					
<u>Laramie River</u>					
Deadman Hill	3/27	59	19.3	19.3	15.5
McIntyre	3/27	45	14.0	15.0	10.6
Roach	3/27	72	24.0	24.7	18.2
<u>North Platte River</u>					
Cameron Pass	3/28	84	28.5	30.4	28.2
Columbine Lodge	3/26	76	26.4	27.2	23.2
Northgate	3/27	37	9.9	8.0	6.2
Park View	3/27	42	10.8	12.7	9.1
Willow Cr. Pass (B)	3/27	52	16.0	17.9	12.2
YAMPA BASIN					
<u>Elk River</u>					
Elk River	3/25	66	22.8	23.8	17.3
Hahn's Peak	3/26	58	20.2	19.5	13.6
<u>White River</u>					
Burro Mountain	3/27	69	21.0	19.6	16.6
Rio Blanco	3/28	57	18.2	16.8	14.7
<u>Yampa River</u>					
Bear River	3/28	47	14.6	13.3	10.8
Columbine (B)	3/26	76	26.4	27.2	23.2
Crosby	3/28	59	19.9	15.7	13.4
Dry Lake	3/27	80	27.0	25.5	18.6
Lynx Pass (B)	3/26	49	14.1	14.2	12.6
Rabbit Ears	3/26	96	29.4	28.8	25.1
Tower	3/27	153	56.5	57.1	46.9
Yampa View	3/25	58	20.3	19.5	14.7

(a) No survey. (b) On adjacent drainage.



ARKANSAS RIVER WATERSHED IN COLORADO



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION IN MARCH HAS RAISED THE BASIN SNOWPACK TO 135% OF
NORMAL FROM 127% LAST MONTH. AS A RESULT, FORECASTS ON THE ARKANSAS HAVE BEEN
RAISED ALSO. STREAMFLOW IS EXPECTED TO RANGE BETWEEN 19% ABOVE AVERAGE ON GRAPE
CREEK TO 63% ABOVE AVERAGE ON THE ARKANSAS ABOVE PUEBLO. THESE FLOWS SHOULD
SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE RESERVOIR CONTENTS THROUGHOUT THE BASIN. CARRYOVER STORAGE
IN RESERVOIRS IS CURRENTLY ABOUT 10% BELOW NORMAL BUT 40% BETTER THAN A YEAR AGO.
SOIL MOISTURE IS RATED AS GOOD IN MOST AREAS.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Arkansas River above Pueblo (1)	425	163	260.0
Arkansas River at Salida (2)	410	142	288.0
Cucharas River near La Veta	13	143	9.1
Huerfano River near Redwing	17	127	13.4
Purgatoire River at Trinidad (3)	45	137	32.8
Grape Creek near Westcliffe	19	119	16.0

(1) Plot change in storage in Pueblo Reservoir. (2) Observed flow plus change in Clear Creek, Twin Lake and Turquoise Reservoirs aimed diversions through Bull Wash, Bousard, Grand, Twin Lake and Horsestate Tunnels and Ewing, Fremont Pass, Vicks and Colabaker ditches. (3) Change in storage in Trinidad Reservoir.

RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Ac. Ft.) END OF MONTH

Name of Stream and of Reservoir	Gauging Station	Usable Storage		
		Full Year	Low Year	1963-77 Average
Adobe	60	3	0	12
Clear Creek	11	8	2	7
Great Plains	150	0	0	43
Holbrook Lake	7	6	-	-
Horse Creek	27	22	21	5
John Martin	621	38	14	59
Lake Henry	8	6	4	-
Nereditz	42	0	0	10
Pueblo	351	63	39	-
Trinidad	158	22	2	-
Turquoise	121	72	72	30
Twin Lakes	58	33	16	26

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Apishapa River	Exc.	Avg.
Fountain Creek	Exc.	Avg.
Hardscrabble Creek	Exc.	Avg.
Monument Creek	Exc.	Avg.

SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN AND OR SUBWATERSHED	Number of Counties Affected	THIS YEAR'S SHA WATER AS PERCENT OF	
		1951-1952	1962-77 Average
Arkansas	11	138	135
Cucharas	2	96	142
Purgatoire	1	120	154

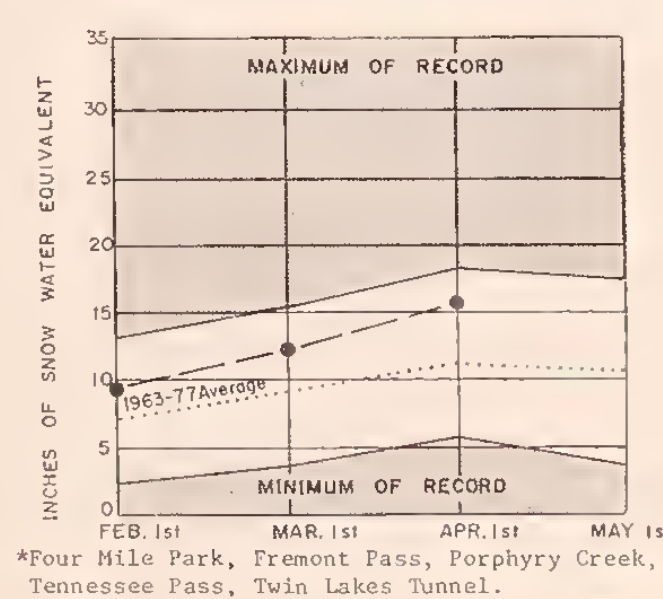
SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNO-COURSE	CURRENT INFORMATION			WATER RECORD	
	DATE OF SURVEY	SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG. 63-72
<u>ARKANSAS BASIN</u>					
<u>Arkansas River</u>					
Bigelow Divide	3/27	35	8.9	9.6	7.2
Brumley	3/28	49	14.9	---	---
Cooper Hill (B)	3/28	53	14.9	12.8	10.8
East Fork	3/28	44	11.9	10.0	9.5
Four Mile Park	3/30	36	10.0	8.4	5.0
Fremont Pass	3/28	66	21.4	16.6	15.5
Garfield	3/31	63	19.8	18.4	12.8
Hermit Lake	3/27	36	10.7	14.8	8.9
Monarch Pass	3/31	70	21.3	21.0	16.0
South Colony	3/27	74	23.6	38.8	---
Tennessee Pass	3/30	47	13.3	14.0	10.0
Twin Lakes Tunnel	3/26	41	13.0	17.0	9.8
Westcliffe	3/26	37	8.4	13.0	6.9
<u>Cucharas River</u>					
Apishapa	3/28	40	10.5	9.4	7.1
Cucharas Creek	3/28	46	11.1	10.0	---
La Veta Pass (B)	3/31	42	12.0	14.1	8.1
<u>Purgatoire River</u>					
Bourbon	3/31	45	10.6	8.8	6.9
Whiskey Creek	3/31	51	12.2	---	---

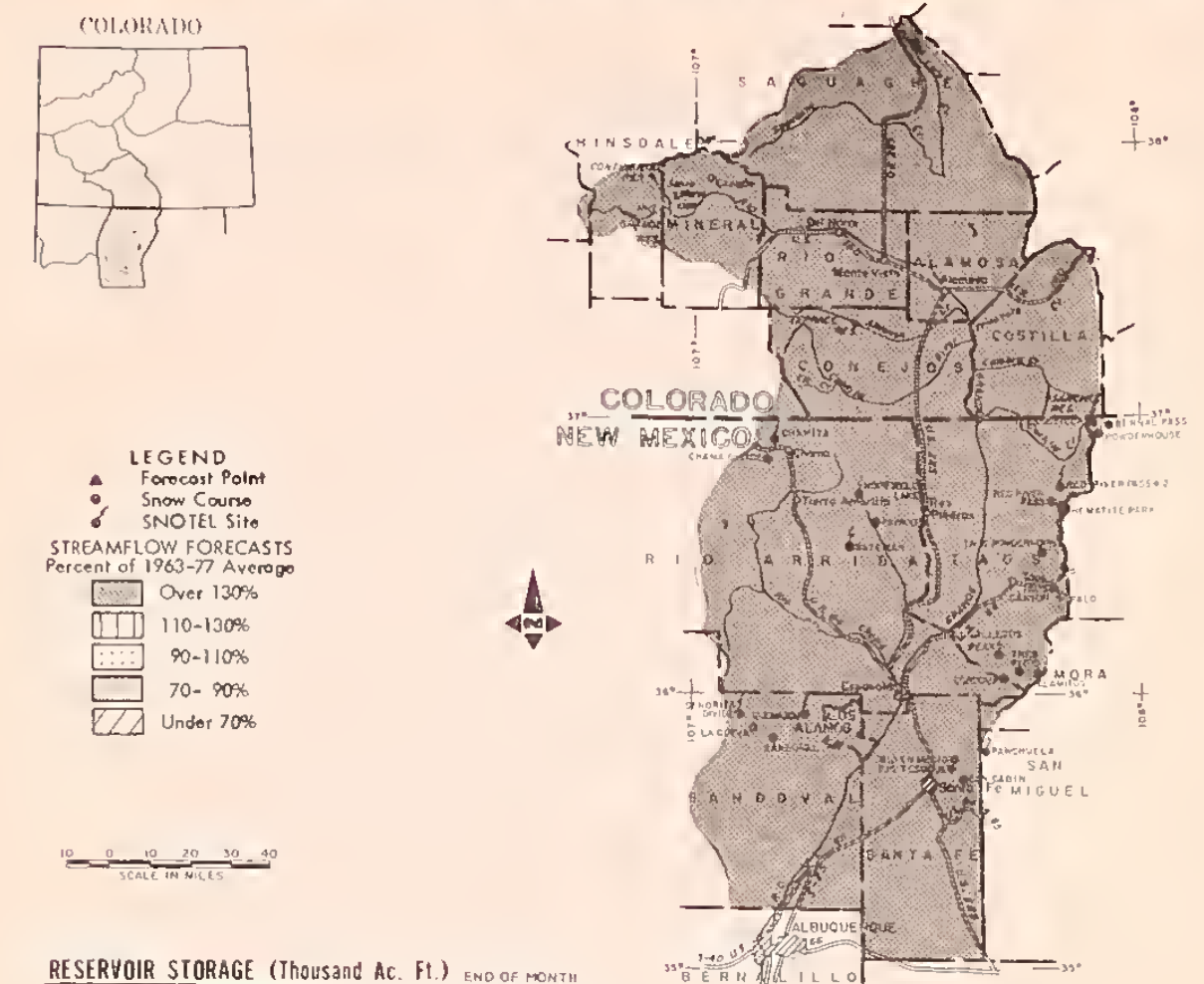
(B)-On adjacent drainage

WATERSHED SNOWPACK

Based on 5 Selected Snow Courses *



RIO GRANDE WATERSHED IN COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

THE PATTERN OF EXTREMELY HEAVY SNOWFALL IN THE MOUNTAINS CONTINUED FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT MONTH. IN COLORADO, WATERSHED SNOWPACKS RANGE FROM 43% ABOVE NORMAL ON CULEBRA CREEK TO 86% ABOVE NORMAL ON THE CONEJOS RIVER. THE CONEJOS CURRENTLY HAS A SNOWPACK 9% ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. THE RIO GRANDE N. DEL NORTE IS FORECAST TO FLOW 700,000 ACRE-FEET WHICH IS 152% OF AVERAGE.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS IN NEW MEXICO RANGE FROM 37% ABOVE NORMAL ON THE RIO PUEBLO DE TAOS TO OVER THREE TIMES NORMAL ON THE RIO GRANDE AT SAN MARCIAL. THE RIO CHAMA WATERSHED HAS A SNOWPACK WHICH IS 231% OF NORMAL WITH SEVERAL SNOW COURSES MEASURING A MAXIMUM OF RECORD. THE POTENTIAL IN ALL DRAINAGES NOW EXISTS FOR SOME LOWLAND FLOODING ONCE SNOWMELT RUNOFF GETS WELL UNDERWAY. CARRYOVER STORAGE IS TWICE NORMAL AND NEARLY TWO AND ONE HALF TIMES AVERAGE.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.)

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
<u>COLORADO (April-September)</u>			
Alamosa Creek above Terrace Reservoir	110	173	63.6
Conejos River near Mogote (1)	340	186	183.0
Culebra Creek at San Luis (2)	22	144	15.3
La Jara Creek near Capulin	11	145	7.6
Los Pinos River near Ortiz	110	179	61.3
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (3)	180	151	119.0
Rio Grande near Del Norte (3)	700	152	462.0
Saguache Creek near Saguache	39	130	30.1
San Antonio River at Ortiz	32	262	12.2
South Fork of Rio Grande at South Fork	190	160	119.0
Trinchera Water Supply (April-July)(6)	35	160	21.9
<u>NEW MEXICO (March-July)</u>			
Costilla Creek at Costilla (4)	22	143	15.4
Jemez River near Jemez	55	165	33.3
Pecos River at Pecos	66	174	38.1
Red River at Mouth	40	147	27.2
Rio Chama at El Vado	490	277	177.0
Rio Grande at Otowi (5)	1340	270	497.0
Rio Grande at San Marcial (5)	1100	328	335.0
Rio Hondo near Valdez	20	156	12.8
Rio Pueblo de Taos below Los Cordovas	26	137	19.0
Santa Cruz River at Cundiyo	22	190	11.6

(1)Observed flow plus change in storage in Platoro Reservoir. (2)Observed flow plus change in storage in Snodgrass Reservoir. (3)Observed flow plus change in storage in Santa Rosa, Rio Grande and Continental Reservoirs. (4)Observed flow plus change in Coalinga Reservoir. (5)Observed flow plus change in storage in El Yabo and Algodora Reservoirs. (6)Sum of Triunfo Creek near Fort Garland, the Creek near Fort Garland, Sangre de Cristo Creek near Fort Garland, and the Rio Grande.

SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

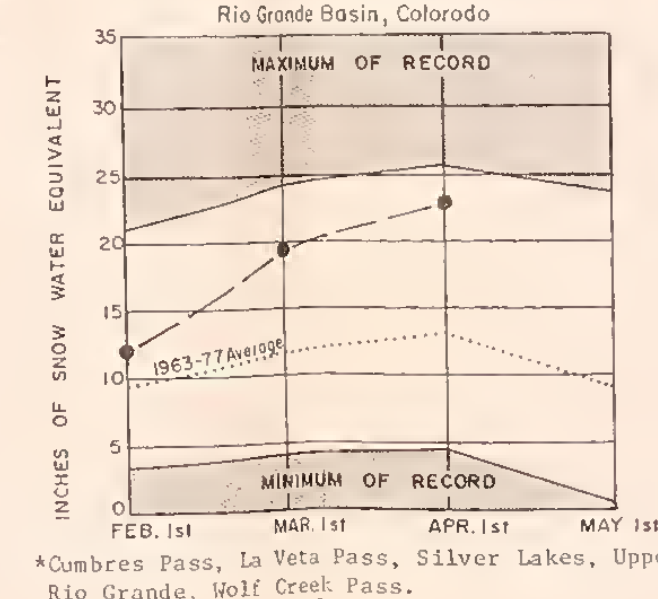
RIVER BASIN and/or SUBWATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOW WATER AS PERCENT OF	
		Last Year	1963-77 Average
<u>COLORADO</u>			
Alamosa	1	60	160
Conejos	5	109	191
Culebra	4	73	143
Rio Grande, CO	12	72	154

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

SNOW COURSE	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD		
	DATE OF SURVEY	SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR	AVG 52-71
RIO GRANDE BASIN-COLO.					
<u>Alamosa River</u>					
Lily Pond	4/01	74	22.2	---	---
Silver Lakes	3/31	33	8.3	13.8	5.
<u>Conejos River</u>					
Cumbres Pass	3/26	101	39.3	29.3	18.
Cumbres Trestle	3/26	126	47.5	41.9	21.
La Manga	3/26	91	29.4	32.3	18.
Pinos Hill	4/01	115	39.1	33.5	---
Platoro	4/01	73	23.8	25.3	15.
River Springs	3/28	33	9.8	7.6	4.
<u>Culebra River</u>					
Brown Cabin	3/28	46	10.2	15.7	4.
Culebra	3/28	50	11.4	15.9	8.
La Veta Pass (B)	3/31	42	12.0	14.1	8.
Trinchera (B)	3/31	43	9.2	12.8	8.
<u>Rio Grande</u>					
Big Meadows	4/01	70	23.2	25.7	---
Cochetopa Pass	3/26	28	6.4	9.6	5.9
Grayback	3/26	60	18.0	26.5	14.5
Hiway	3/28	116	38.3	44.4	23.7
Lake Humphrey	3/26	40	9.3	17.8	6.
Love Lake	3/27	51	13.6	21.7	9.2
Middle Creek	3/27	86	27.7	39.3	---
Pass Creek	3/28	66	21.6	27.2	10.2
Pool Table	3/28	32	6.2	13.9	5.2
Porcupine	3/27	44	11.4	22.9	9.4
Santa Maria	3/27	30	7.0	13.4	3.
Upper Rio Grande	3/27	46	12.5	21.6	7.7
Wolf Creek Pass	3/28	121	42.8	48.5	25.8
Wolf Cr. Summit (B)	3/28	127	45.6	52.3	28.4

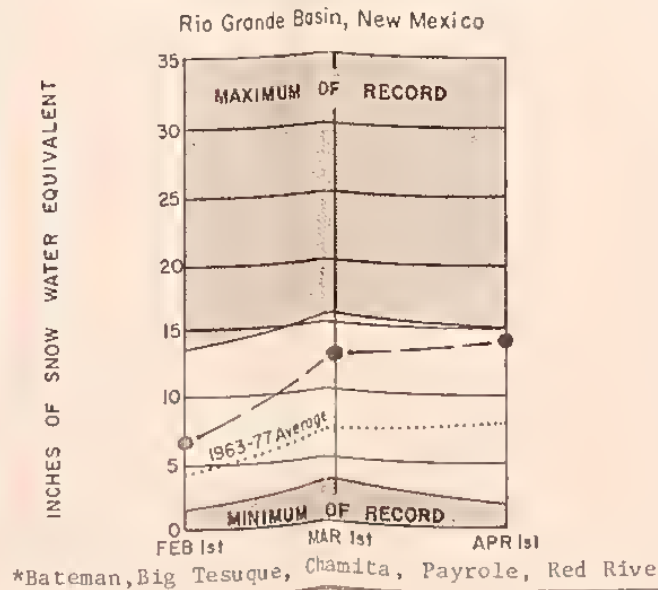
WATERSHED SNOWPACK

Based on 5 Selected Snow Courses *



WATERSHED SNOWPACK

Based on 5 Selected Snow Courses *



SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS (COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN and/or SUB-BASIN/SHED	Number of Courts Averaged	THIS YEAR'S PER CENT AS PERCENT OF	
		Last Year	1961-77 Average
<u>NEW MEXICO</u>			
Pecos	1	73	290
Red River	2	77	163
Rio Chama	3	115	231
Rio Grande, NM	14	94	181
Rio Hondo	1	78	—

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

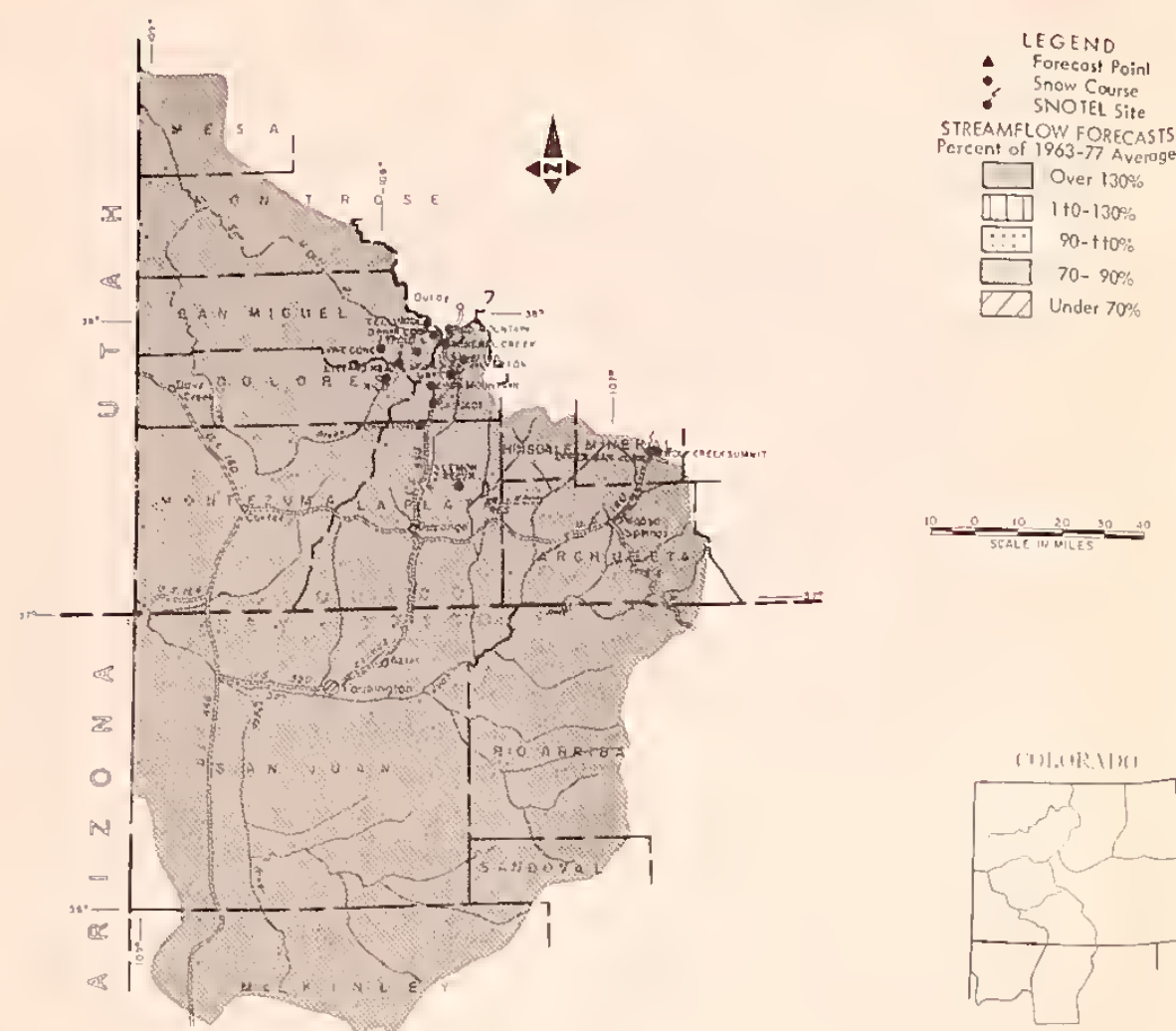
SNOW COURSE	CURRENT INFORMATION		PAST RECORD	
	DATE OF SURVEY	SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	LAST YEAR
RIO GRANDE BASIN - NM				
<u>Pecos River</u>				
Panchuela	3/28	21	5.8	8.0
<u>Red River</u>				
Hematite Park (B)	3/28	24	6.1	8.5
Red River	3/28	35	8.9	11.0
<u>Rio Chama</u>				
Bateman	3/25	59	18.5	18.3
Chama Divide	3/27	31	10.0	7.1
Chamita	3/25	56	18.2	15.2
<u>Rio Grande</u>				
Alamitos	3/25	33	8.3	7.5
Bernal Trail (B)	NS	--	--	11.5
Big Tesuque	3/26	27	8.2	9.1
Cordova	3/31	61	16.6	16.0
Elk Cabin	3/28	20	4.9	3.9
Gallegos Peak	3/31	47	13.9	14.8
Hopewell	3/26	79	27.8	27.2
La Cueva	3/26	32	11.1	11.6
North Costilla	3/27	29	6.4	11.0
Palo	3/28	38	10.8	9.6
Payrole	3/26	47	16.1	20.5
Quemazon	3/31	50	14.2	17.6
Rio En Medio	3/26	46	13.3	15.9
San Antonio Sink	4/01	43	13.4	14.4
Sandoval	3/27	30	8.2	11.7
Senorita Divide	3/25	40	13.8	11.0
Taos Canyon	3/28	23	6.0	8.3
Tres Ritos	3/25	24	6.7	7.4
<u>Rio Hondo</u>				
Taos Powderhorn	4/01	106	34.3	43.7

NS-No survey.
 (B)-On adjacent drainage.



HS-No survey.
(B)-On adjacent drainage.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS AND SAN JUAN WATERSHEDS IN COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO



YOUR WATER SUPPLY

STREAMFLOW IS EXPECTED TO RANGE BETWEEN 153% OF AVERAGE TO OVER 200% OF AVERAGE IN THE AREA. THE MOUNTAIN SNOWPACK INCREASED AT AN ABOVE NORMAL RATE FOR THE THIRD MONTH IN A ROW. SNOWPACK IN THE DOLORES DRAINAGE IS CURRENTLY 172% OF AVERAGE WHICH IS 6% ABOVE A YEAR AGO. ELSEWHERE WATERSHED SNOWPACKS ARE 7 TO 16% BELOW LAST YEAR'S RECORD LEVELS. SOME LOCALIZED OVER-BANK FLOW IS POSSIBLE IN LOW LYING AREAS WHEN STREAMS BECOME SWOLLEN WITH SNOWMELT RUNOFF DURING MAY AND EARLY JUNE. THE SNOTEL SYSTEM SHOWED 1.5" TO 3.5" OF PRECIPITATION OCCURRED IN THE MOUNTAINS DURING THE MARCH 23 - APRIL 3 STORM.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS (1000 Ac. Ft.) April - September

FORECAST POINT	Forecast	% of Average	1963-77 Average
Animas River at Durango	650	153	425.0
Dolores River at Dolores	380	163	233.0
La Plata River at Hesperus	45	191	23.5
Los Pinos River at Bayfield (1)	335	164	204.0
Mancos River near Towaoc (2)	39	178	21.9
Inflow to Navajo River (1 & 3)	1150	189	608.0
Piedra Creek at Arboles	400	199	201.0
San Juan River at Carracas	665	180	370.0
San Miguel River at Placerville	190	153	124.0

(1) Observed flow plus change in storage in Vallecito Reservoir (2) March-July, (3) April-July.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Expressed as "Poor, Fair, Average, Excellent" with Respect to Usual Supply.

STREAM or AREA	Flow Period	
	Spring Season	Late Season
Florida River	Exc.	Exc.
Hermosa Creek	Exc.	Exc.
West Dolores River	Exc.	Exc.
Williams Creek	Exc.	Exc.

RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Ac. Ft.) END OF MONTH

Basin or Stream and or RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
		This Year	Last Year	1963-77 Average
Groundhog	22	--	9	10
Jackson Gulch	10	1	2	5
Lemon	40	19	8	19
Navajo	1696	1014	1180	692
Vallecito	126	48	42	59

SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

(COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)

RIVER BASIN and or SUB-WATERSHED	Number of Courses Averaged	THIS YEAR'S SNOW WATER AS EQUIVALENT	
		Last Year	1961-77 Average
Animas	8	84	170
Dolores	5	106	172
San Juan	5	93	182

SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

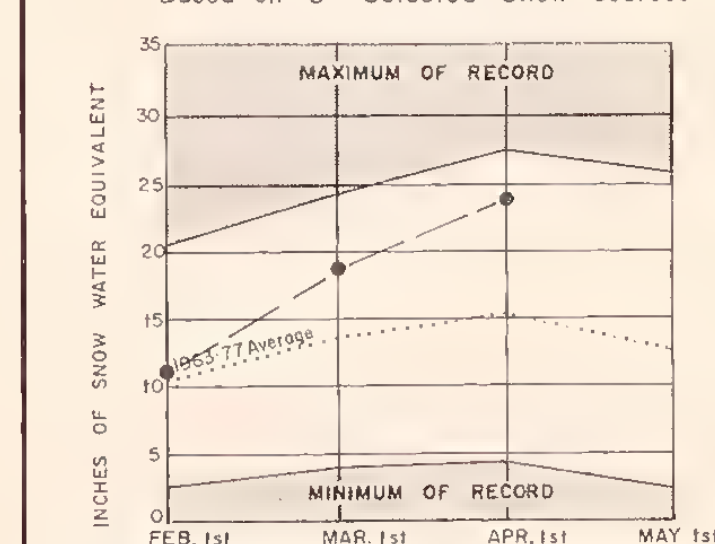
SNOW COURSE	CURRENT INFORMATION			PAST RECORD	
	DATE OF SURVEY	SNOW DEPTH (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	WATER CONTENT (INCHES)	
				LAST YEAR	AVG. 63-77
SAN JUAN-DOLORES BASIN					
<u>Animas River</u>					
Cascade	3/28	66	23.4	27.5	10.3
Lemon	3/31	55	19.7	22.9	8.3
Mineral Creek	3/28	71	23.7	22.7	15.0
Molas Lake	3/28	64	22.2	20.6	12.1
Purgatory	3/27	92	30.5	45.0	18.6
Red Mt. Pass (B)	3/28	108	37.5	44.0	29.7
Silverton Sub-Sta.	3/28	43	14.1	15.1	6.2
Spud Mountain	3/28	106	37.4	49.9	22.1
<u>Dolores River</u>					
Groundhog	4/01	60	22.4	20.1	---
Houser Camp	3/26	48	14.5	18.5	---
Lizard Head	3/28	78	25.4	26.0	16.8
Lone Cone	3/27	74	25.0	23.8	15.7
Ophir Loop	3/28	66	21.3	22.9	---
Rico	3/28	60	18.0	12.0	6.0
Telluride	3/25	44	11.4	13.0	7.1
Trout Lake	3/25	72	23.1	22.2	14.1
<u>San Juan River</u>					
Chama Divide (B)	3/27	31	10.0	7.1	1.7
Chamita (B)	3/25	56	18.2	15.2	7.2
La Plata	3/26	108	41.9	32.4	---
Mancos T-Down	3/26	101	37.6	30.0	---
Upper San Juan	3/28	140	49.9	55.0	28.5
Wolf Cr. Pass (B)	3/28	121	42.8	48.5	25.8
Wolf Cr. Summit	3/28	127	45.6	52.3	28.4

NS-No survey.

(B)-On adjacent drainage.

WATERSHED SNOWPACK

Based on 5 Selected Snow Courses *



*Cascade, Lizard Head, Molas Lake, Red Mountain Pass, Telluride.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK BY MAJOR WATERSHED AREAS

-GUNNISON RIVER WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in Delta, Gunnison, Cimarron, Shovono, and Uncompahgre Soil Conservation Districts.

-COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED

Describe water supply conditions in DeBeque, Plateau Valley, Mesa, Baackcliff, Eagle County, Middle Park, South Side, and Mt. Sapis Soil Conservation Districts.

-SOUTH PLATTE RIVER WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in Fort Collins, Big Thompson, Longmont, Boulder Valley, Jefferson, Teller-Park, Douglas County, Morgan, Kiowa, West Arapahoe, West Adams, East Adams, Platte Valley, Southeast Weld, and West Greeley Soil Conservation Districts. Also describes water supply conditions in Sedgwick, South Platte, Haxton, Peetz, Padroni, Morgan, Rock Creek, and Yuma Soil Conservation Districts.

-YAMPA, WHITE AND NORTH PLATTE RIVERS WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in Yampa, Moffat, West Routt, East Routt, North Park, White River, and Douglas Creek Soil Conservation Districts.

-ARKANSAS RIVER WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in Lake County, Upper Arkansas, Fremont, Custer County Divide, Fountain Valley, Black Squirrel, Central Colorado, Turkey Creek, South Pueblo, Olney Baane, Cheyenne, Upper Huerfano, Spanish Peaks, Purgatoire River, Trincheria, Western Baca, Southeastern Baca, Two Buttes, Bent, Timpas, Northeast Prowers, Prowers, Kiowa County, West Otero, East Otero, Prairie, Hi Plains, and Double El Soil Conservation Districts.

-RIO GRANDE WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in Rio Grande, Center, Conejos, Mosca Hooper, and Costilla, Soil Conservation Districts. Also describes water supply conditions in Upper Chama, East Rio Arriba, Taos, Lindrieth, Jemez, Santa Fe-Pajarque, Sandoval, Tijeras, Cuba and Edgewood Soil Conservation Districts.

-DOLORES, SAN JUAN, AND ANIMAS RIVERS WATERSHED

Describes water supply conditions in San Miguel Basin, Dave Creek, Dolores, Mancos, LaPlata, Pine River, San Juan, San Miguel Basin, and Glade Park Soil Conservation Districts.